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R 281205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3460

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

DEA HQS WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 BANGKOK 7559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: QUARTERLY ROUNDUP OF THAI DEVELOPMENTS,
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 1975

REF: A) STATE A-3527, MAY 1974

B) BANGKOK 1888

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER INCLUDED THE JANUARY
VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND THE 1975 EA NARCOTICS
CONFERENCE IN MARCH. THE U.S. ALSO SPONSORED A THREE-DAY
SEMINAR ON DRUG ABUSE AND A TWO-DAY TRAINING COURSE
FOR TREATMENT PERSONNEL IN THAILAND. TWO MAJOR TRAFFICKERS,
LONG ON THE LIST OF PRIORITY TARGETS OF THAI AND AMERICAN
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ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, WERE ARRESTED IN BANGKOK ON

MARCH 22. DURING THE QUARTER AN OPERATOR OF A HEROIN LABORATORY ARRESTED LAST YEAR ESCAPED FROM DETENTION IN CHIANG MAI AMID RUMORS OF POLICE COMPLICITY. A JOINT USG/RTG EVALUATION TEAM RECOMMENDED THAT THE CUSTOMS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND U.S. ADVISORY ASSISTANCE BE EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS. THE AERIAL SURVEY CONTRACT WAS CANCELLED IN JANUARY WHEN THE RTG DECIDED AGAINST ALLOWING PHOTOGRAPHY OF NORTH THAILAND AT THE REQUIRED SCALE. THE RED KIDNEY BEANS PLANTED IN UNPDAC VILLAGES WERE HARVESTED - AND SOLD - DURING THE QUARTER. END SUMMARY

1. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING:

A. PRODUCTION - THERE HAS BEEN NO SLACKENING IN PRODUCTION OF OPIUM FROM TRI-BORDER GROWING AREAS, JUDGING FROM THE AVAILABILITY OF OPIUM DERIVATIVES IN THE CHIANG MAI AREA. MARCH 1975 PRICES REMAIN HIGH AND FAIRLY STABLE WITH HEROIN NO. 4 SELLING FOR \$3,000 PER KILOGRAM WHOLESALE. (JANUARY PRICE WAS \$3,215). BY MARCH THE NEW OPIUM CROP BEGAN TO MAKE ITS APPEARANCE AND LATE IN THE MONTH NO

LESS THAN THREE OPIUM CARAVANS WERE REPORTED ENROUTE TO THE THAI BORDER.

B. PROCESSING - THE TREND OF REFINING OPIUM INTO MORPHINE BASE, PI TZU (IMPURE MORPHINE BASE) AND HEROIN IN SMALL, MOBILE REFINERIES SCATTERED ALONG THE THAI/ BURMA BORDER, CONTINUED DURING THE QUARTER. EARLIER THERE HAD BEEN A REPORTED SHORTAGE OF NEEDED CHEMICALS, BUT BY THE END OF MARCH THIS PROBLEM APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WITH LARGE SHIPMENTS OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE AND OTHER CHEMICALS MOVING THROUGH CHIANG MAI FROM UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES OF SUPPLY. ALCOHOL, SODIUM BICARBONATE, CHARCOAL AND OTHER NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF HEROIN WERE READILY AVAILABLE IN THE CHIANG MAI AREA.

2. TRAFFICKING TRENDS

THAILAND REMAINS A TRANSIT COUNTRY AS WELL AS A PRODUCER
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OF OPIATES DESTINED FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. IN THE PAST MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON DIRECTING INTERDICTION EFFORTS TOWARD THE SOURCE AREAS IN NORTHERN THAILAND USING SNO POLICE, BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) AND PROVINCIAL POLICE (PP). THESE EFFORTS CONTINUE AND HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN DISCOURAGING LARGE CARAVAN SHIPMENTS FROM ENTERING THAILAND EN MASSE. NARCOTIC SHIPMENTS CONTINUE IN MORE SCATTERED AND FRAGMENTED

WAYS, HOWEVER, AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. ALTHOUGH THIS AREA CONTINUES TO BE SIGNIFICANT IN THE TRAFFICKING PATTERNS, DEA IS PAYING CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE SOUTH OF THAILAND AND THE THAI MALAYSIA BORDER WHERE SMUGGLING AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS VIRTUALLY UNCHECKED. DEA AND RESPONSIBLE RTG NARCOTICS AGENCIES ARE AWARE OF GROWING NARCOTIC TRAFFIC BETWEEN THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS IN EUROPE AND BEYOND.

TRADITIONAL THAI TRAWLER TRAFFIC TO HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND OTHER MARKETPLACES CONTINUES AT A SOMEWHAT REDUCED RATE BUT REPORTS INDICATE THAT NOW TRAWLER SKIPPERS EMPLOY MORE SOPHISTICATED NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES THAT ENABLE THEM TO STAY FARTHER FROM SHORE AND THUS AVOID RTG OR HKNB PATROL/INTERCEPT SURFACE VESSELS.

3. ENFORCEMENT

A. GENERAL - ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND WELL-COORDINATED CASES IN RECENT HISTORY WAS COMPLETED ON MARCH 22, 1975, WHEN BANGKOK NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION POLICE ARRESTED TWO MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS - HOI SEWAN, MALAYSIAN BORN THAI RESIDENT, AND SUKREE SUKREEPIROM, THAI-CHINESE BANGKOK RESIDENT. BOTH ARE NOW IN DETENTION CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF 25 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN NO. 3, WHICH THEY WERE ARRANGING TO SMUGGLE BY COMMERCIAL AIR INTO EUROPE.

A GROWING CAUSE FOR CONCERN ON THE PART OF THAI LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WORKING AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS IS CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF CORRUPTION
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WITHIN THE RTG. THE HIGHEST LEVEL VIOLATOR ARRESTED THUS FAR IN NORTHERN THAILAND, POLICE LT. COLONEL SAWAI PHUTTHARAK ESCAPED FROM POLICE CUSTODY UNDER QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES AS HE WAS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM JAIL TO THE COURTS ON MARCH 15, 1975. PRESS REPORTS ALLEGED THAT HIS ESCAPE WAS ENGINEERED BY SENIOR LEVEL POLICE WHO DID NOT WANT SAWAI, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN OPERATING A HEROIN LABORATORY, TO STAND TRIAL AND TESTIFY AGAINST THEM.

IN ANOTHER REVELATION, THE RTG UNDER-SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, DISCLOSED ON APRIL 3, THAT 273 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN AND 680 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE WERE MISSING FROM THE GOVERNMENT STOREROOM. THE DRUGS WERE PART OF THE NARCOTICS SEIZED BY POLICE RAIDS OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS. NEWS OF

THE MISSING DRUGS FIRST APPEARED IN THE THAI LANGUAGE
PRESS IN LATE NOVEMBER 1974. IT WAS REPORTED AT
THE TIME THAT A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED TO INVESTIGATE
THE MATTER (FOR DETAILS SEE FTB19,962) NOVEMBER 26, 1974).

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B. SEIZURES - FOLLOWING ARE THE RTG CENTRAL NARCOTICS
BOARD SEIZURE STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1974 (NOT AVAILABLE
FOR LAST QUARTERLY) AND FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1975
(FIGURES FOR MARCH ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE):

DECEMBER 1974 9 KGS OPIUM LESS THAN ONE 8 KGS
KG. MORPHINE HEROIN

JANUARY 1975 256 KGS OPIUM 5 KGS MORPHINE 3 KGS HEROIN

FEBRUARY 1975 15 KGS OPIUM LESS THAN ONE 3 KGS HEROIN
KG MORPHINE

(NOTE: THE ACCURACY OF CNB FIGURES IS OFTEN AFFECTED
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BY (1) INCLUSION OF CONTAINER WEIGHT; (2) NO FOLLOW-UP
CORRECTION OF ESTIMATES IN THE ORIGINAL REPORT; (3)
FAILURE OF THE RTG NATION-WIDE REPORTING SYSTEM TO REPORT
ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY TO THE CNB; AND (4)
PROBABLE CONFUSION AS TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MORPHINE
AND HEROIN. AS NOTED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, ACTUAL
SEIZURES FOR THE MONTHS LISTED ABOVE WERE CONSIDERABLY
HIGHER THAN CNB FIGURES WOULD INDICATE.)

C. SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES - THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR
SEIZURES MADE DURING THE REPORTING PRIOD:

(1) JANUARY 9, 1975. CRIME SUPPRESSION DIVISION (CSD)
POLICE IN BANGKOK ARRESTED FOUR DEFENDANTS AND
SEIZED 7.5 KGS OF HEROIN NO 4 THEY TRID TO
SELL TO A THAI POLICE UNDERCOVE AGENT. THE INFORMATION
WAS SUPPLIED BY A DEA SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE. ONE OF
THE DEFENDANTS IS THE SON OF WAN PEN FEN, A MAJOR
TRAFFICKER NOW SERVING A 10-YEAR SENTENCE IN SOUTH
VIETNAM. PROSECUTION IS PENDING.

(2) JANUARY 15, 1975. ACTING ON DEA-SUPPLIED INTELLIGENCE,
RTG POLICE O F THE 7TH SUB-DIVISION CSD ARRESTED THREE
DEFENDANTS AND SEIZED 1.4 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN NO 4
AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO DELIVER THE NARCOTICS IN BANGKOK.
PROSECUTION IS PENDING.

(3) JANUARY 17, 1975. THAI CUSTOMS POLICE AT THE DON
MUANG AIRPORT SEIZED TWO LARGE PLYWOOD BOXES FILLED WITH
85 KILOGRAMS OF MARIHUANA, DESTINED FOR A NEW YORK CITY
ADDRESSEE VIA A JAPAN AIR LINE FLIGHT.

(4) JANUARY 23, 1975. RTG POLICE OF THE 7TH SUB-DIVISION,
ACTING ON DEA-SUPPLIED INTELLIGENCE, ARRESTED THREE PEOPLE
AND SEIZED 4.9 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN NO 4 AS THEY TRIED
TO SELL THE NARCOTICS TO A THAI POLICE UNDERCOVER OFFICER.
PROSECUTION IS PENDING.

(5) JANUARY 26, 1975. BPP SEIZED FIVE HORSES (PART OF
A LARGER 50 HORSE CARAVAN) AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER
THAILAND NEAR PIANG LUANG. THE BPP CAPTURED 252
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KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM, 6.7 KGS OF PI TZU
AND 1.7 KGS OF ALCOHOL PI TZU. NO DEFENDANTS WERE ARRESTED.

(6) FEBRUARY 12, 1975. PROVINCIAL POLICE AT PHAYAO
ACTING ON THEIR OWN INFORMATION, ARRESTED FOUR ARMED
DEFENDANTS AND SEIZED 1.5 KGS OF HEROIN NO 4 AS THEY
TRIED TO BREAK THROUGH A ROADBLOCK. THE DEFENDANTS
WERE ARRESTED AFTER THEIR VEHICLE OVERTURNED. PROSECUTION
IS PENDING.

(7) FEBRUARY 17, 1975. IN SNGKHLA, A JOINT DEA/SNO
OPERATION RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF
HEROIN NO 4 AT THE HAT YAI RAILROAD STATION. THE
NARCOTICS WERE CONCEALED IN A BLACK SUITCASE BELIEVED
DESTINED FOR MALAYSIA.

(8) ON THE SAME DATE, SNO OFFICERS, IN LAMPANG, ACTING
ON THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE, ARRESTED TWO ARMED DEFENDANTS
IN POSSESSION OF 16 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM.

(9) FEBRUARY 26, 1975. IN BANGKOK, THAI CUSTOMS SEIZED
42 KILOGRAMS OF MARIHUANA AT A BANGKOK RAILWAY STATION.
NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. THE DRUG WAS BELIEVED DESTINED FOR
MALAYSIA,

(10) MARCH 23, 1975. PROVINCIAL POLICE OF CHIANG
DAO DISTRICT, ON THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE, SEIZED
17 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM AND ARRESTED TWO DEFENDANTS
AT A CHIANG MAI-FANG HIGHWAY CHECKPOINT.

(11) MARCH 22, 1975. IN BANGKOK, THAI POLICE FROM THE
NSC ACTING DEA INTELLIGENCE, ARRESTED HOI SEWAN
AND SUKREE SUKREEPIROM AND SEIZED 25 KILOGRAMS OF
HEROIN NO 3 WHICH THE TRAFFICKERS WERE TRYING TO
DELIVER TO EUROPE. PROSECUTION IS PENDING.

D. AID ASSISTANCE TO ENFORCEMENT

(1) CUSTOMS- A JOINT USG/RTG EVALUATION OF THE CUSTOMS
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT WAS COMPLETED IN MARCH. THE
EVALUATION TEAM FOUND:
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A. THE THREE-MAN U.S. CUSTOMS TEAM HAS HAD A BENEFICIAL
IMPACT ON RTG CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AND RECOMMENDED ADVISORY

ASSISTANCE BE EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS, WITH POSSIBLE
SHIFTS IN THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY TEAM.
B. THE RTG IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING THE PROJECT GOALS,
AND PROJECT SUPPORT FROM RTG SOURCES IS ON THE
INCREASE.

C. THE PROJECT SHOULD CONTINUE TO FURNISH REASONABLE
AMUNTS OF COMMODITY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, PROCUREMENT
OF BOATS, BY THE RTG AND THE USG, SHOULD BE RELATED TO
IMPROVED MAINTENANCE AND BOAT UTILIZATION.

D. THERE IS A NEED WITHIN RTG CUSTOMS TO ASSIGN
COUNTERPARTS TO THE U.S. ADVISORS, AND TO OVERCOME
SHORTCOMINGS IN MARINE VESSEL UTILIZATION AND
MAINTENANCE.

AFTER FULL REVIEW OF THE EVALUATION REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE IN AN ADDENDUM REPORT
SUBMITTED BY THE MRINE OPERATIONS MEMBER OF THE
EVALUATION TEAM, THE USG POSITION AND FY 75 PROGRAM WILL
BE FINALIZED.

(2) INTERDICTION ROADS - THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMAND
(NSC) HAS NEARLY COMPLETED THE FIELD WORK FOR THE BAN
MUANG NA TAI TO BAN CHONG ROAD SURVEY TOTALLING ABOUT
47 KMS. DESIGN ON THE MUANG NA TAI - KAE NOI SEGMENT
(15KMS) IS PROCEEDING AND JOINT RTG/USG FUNDING OF
CONSTRUCTION MAY BE AGREED ON DURING FY 75.

IN ADDITION, PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH
THE RTG ON TWO OTHER ROADS. THE FIRST IS ACCELERATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT (ARD) ROAD NO CM 1003 FROM BAN MAE CHA TO
BAN PIANG LUANG TOTALLING ABOUT 69 KMS. THE SECOND ROAD
FROM BAN MAE MALAI (CHAING MAI) TO MAE HONG SON TOTALS
ABOUT 200KMS, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTION
DIVIDED BETWEEN ARD AND THE THAI HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (SEE
BANGKOK 6093, APRIL 10, 1975 FOR MORE DETAIL).

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R 281205Z APR 75

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INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

DEA HQS WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC POLAD

CINCPAC J112

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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E. TRAINING - DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE
TNPD TRAINED 480 RECRUITS IN BASIC NARCOTIC
AWARENESS, DEVOTED 72 HOURS OF NARCOTIC TRAINING TO
JUNIOR AND SENIOR STUDENTS AT SAM PHRAN POLICE CADET ACADEMY,
AND 40 HOURS OF TRAINING FOR 39 BPP OFFICERS AT UDON IN BPP
AREA 3. ADDITIONALLY, THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF TWO DAY HIGH
LEVEL NARCOTIC SEMINARS WAS HELD IN CHIANG MAI ATTENDED BY
THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BPP, POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN,
POLICE COLONEL CHAWALIT YOTMANI, AND RANKING OFFICERS OF BPP,
SNO, AND PP. THE SEMINARS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE COMING
YEAR AS TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

F. NARCOTICS HELICOPTER USAGE - LISTED BELOW ARE THE
THAI POLICE AVIATION DIVISION (TPAD) REPORTED STATISTICS
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ON THE USAGE OF THE TWO AID-FUNDED HELICOPTERS FOR
NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY THROUGH
MARCH (NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES INDICATE NARCOTIC RELATED
MISSIONS FLOWN BY OTHER TPAD AIRCRAFT):

MISSIONS HOURS PASSENGERS CARGO (LBS)

JANUARY	15 (4)	42	345	6,940
FEBRUARY	7 (3)	18	151	13,785
MARCH	8 (3)	14	92	1,400

THE TOTAL FLYING HOURS AND MISSIONS (INCLUDING NON-
NARCOTIC RELATED MISSIONS) OF THE TWO HELICOPTERS
AND THE AVERAGE PERCENT AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION
FOLLOWS:

MISSIONS HOURS AVAILABILITY UTILIZATION

JANUARY 32 75 68PERCENT 60PERCENT
 FEBRUARY 12 29 54PERCENT 40PERCENT
 MARCH 25 55 71PERCENT 54PERCENT

THERE IS NO SEPARATE ITEM IN THE TPAD BUDGET FOR NARCOTIC AIRLIFT SUPPORT. THE FOLLOWING FIGURES ARE BASED ON THE TPAD'S ESTIMATES OF THE COSTS FOR THE NARCOTIC AIRLIFT SUPPORT INVOLVED. THE BASIC COST OF THE FLYING TIME OF HELICOPTERS (MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS) IS ESTIMATED AS 200 DOLLARS PER HOUR. POL, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO FIELD STATIONS, IS \$49.50 PER HOUR (90 GALLONS OF JP4 PER HOUR AT 55 CENTS PER GALLON). THE COST OF THE FLYING CREW IS BASED ON A THREE MAN CREW USED BY THE TPAD WITH A CAPTAIN AS PILOT, A LIEUTENANT AS CO-PILOT AND A SERGEANT AS CREW CHIEF. THE TOTAL ESTIMATED CREW COST IS \$5.17 PER HOUR.

	AIRCRAFT	POL	CREW
JANUARY	\$7,857.	\$1,925	\$208.
FEBRUARY	3,321.	797	87.
MARCH	2,228	525.	62

4. INCOME SUBSTITUTION

A. UNPDAC - THE RED KIDNEY BEAN CROP, PLANTED LAST FALL, WAS HARVESTED DURING THE QUARTER WITH GOOD RESULTS. THE UN BOUGHT 31 TONS OF BEANS FROM 15 VILLAGES. AN UNKNOWN BUT PROBABLY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE CROP WAS PURCHASED DIRECTELY BY LOCAL MERCHANTS WHO HIKE INTO THE VILLAGES. MOST VILLAGERS SAVED SEED AND WILL NOT
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HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE UN TO BRING IN SEED FOR THE 1975 PLANTING.

(1) MARKETING OF THE BEAN HAS DONE WELL AND DEMAND IS HIGH. THE UN BROUGHT 31 TONS, PAYING SEVEN BAHT PER KILO, AND WAS ABLE TO SELL FOR EIGHT BAHT TWENTY-FIVE SATANG PER KILO.

(2) SOME OF THE VILLAGERS GROWING BEANS EARNED MORE THAN THEY WOULD HAVE WITH OPIUM. IN THE UN KEY VILLAGE OF MAE THO, WHICH PRODUCED MORE BEANS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE VILLAGE, SEVERAL FAMILIES RECEIVED OVER 10,000 BAHT FOR THEIR CROP. THE AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME FOR OPIUM IS ABOUT 7,000 BAHT. UNPDAC SOURCES NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT NEXT YEAR'S MARKET MAY BE MORE UNCERTAIN SINCE MANY LOWLAND THAIS IN THE NORTH ARE GOING TO PLANT RED KIDNEY BEANS THIS YEAR.

(3) DR. FUKUNAKA, AN INTERNATIONAL COFFEE SPECIALIST FORMERLY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, VISITED CHIANG

MAI IN FEBRUARY AS A CONSULTANT FOR UNPDAC. IN HIS REPORT, FUKUNAKA SAID THE CONSIDERS ARABICA COFFEE TO BE THE BEST CROP TO REPLACE THE OPIUM POPPY IN ALL AREAS WHICH ARE FREE FROM FROST. VAST TRACTS SUITABLE FOR COFFEE ARE AVAILABLE IN THE HILL TRIBE AREAS OF NORTH THAILAND.

B. HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (AID) -

(1) HIGHLAND DATA

THE AERIAL SURVEY CONTRACT HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND FY 74-75 FUNDS TOTALLING \$645,702 HAVE BEEN DEOBLIGATED. THE SERVICES OF A CONTRACT PHOTO INTERPRETATION SPECIALIST WILL TEMPORARILY CONTINUE TO ESTABLISH THE CAPABILITY WITHIN THE NORTHERN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER (NADC) TO DEVELOP A DATA BASE USING EXISTING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. THIS WILL INCLUDE PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND A SYSTEMATIC INVENTORY OF AVAILABLE MATERIAL TO COMPLETE THE DATA BASE.

(2) HIGHLAND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

THE RTG HAS RESPONDED TO THE DESIGN TEAM REPORT AND
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DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO DEVELOP A PROJECT PAPER WHICH, IN ADDITION TO THE RESEARCH ELEMENT, WILL ADDRESS EXTENSION, TRAINING AND HILL TRIBE INVOLVEMENT. MISSION EXPECTS THAT DESIGN WORK WILL PROCEED AND THAT WASHINGTON APPROVAL WILL BE REQUESTED TO BEGIN AT LEAST THE RESEARCH ELEMENT OF THE PROJECT IN FY 75. (SEE BANGKOK 5821, APRIL 7, 1975.)

(3) HIGHLAND PRESERVED FOOD

FY 73 PROCURED EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN INSTALLED AND IS OPERATIONAL IN THE FACTORY IN MAE CHAN, CHIANG RAI PROVINCE. FY 74 PROCURED EQUIPMENT IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN MAY 1975.

(4) ZONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE RTG HAS ACTIVATED A WORKING GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INVOLVED RTG DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE BPP. SEVERAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD; RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BEING CONSOLIDATED; AND THE REVISED PRP IS EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED TO USOM BY MAY 1. THE PUBLIC WELFARE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FIELD SURVEY RESULTS ARE BEING COMPILED IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND GEO-PHYSICAL REPORTS WITH COMPLETION ANTICIPATED PRIOR TO MAY 1. THESE REPORTS WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT BASELINE DATA FOR USE IN FINAL PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE ZONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

(4) MINT PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING
THE APPLIED SCIENCE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THAILAND
(ASRCT) HAS COMPLETED ALL TESTING AND EVALUATION OF
THE MINT TRIALS IN THE VARIOUS HIGHLAND LOCATIONS.
RESULTS OF THIS CROP SUBSTITUTE EXPERIMENT ARE NOW
BEING COMPILED IN A REPORT WITH SUBMISSION TO USOM
EXPECTED BY MID-MAY. AT THAT TIME CONSIDERATION WILL
BE GIVEN TO FURTHER ACTION, IF ANY.

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(6) PILOT REFORESTATION PROJECTS

DOI SAM MUEN - THE FIRST YEAR CYCLE OF THIS EXPERIMENTAL
WATERSHED PLANTING PROGRAM HAS BEEN COMPLETED. A REPORT
ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE USG-SUPPORTED PROJECT WILL

BE SUBMITTED BY THE RTG WHEN CURRENT APPRAISALS ON PERFORMANCE ARE COMPLETED. OBSERVATIONS OF THE PROJECT, WHICH IS LOCATED AT A UNPDAC "KEY" VILLAGE, SHOW SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING A NUMBER OF OPIUM GROWING VILLAGERS TO THIS ALTERNATE INCOME OPPORTUNITY. THE ROYAL FORESTRY DEPARTMENT (RFD) IS NOW PREPARING TO ADD A MUCH LARGER AREA FOR REFORESTATION FOR THE SECOND YEAR USING RTG BUDGET FUNDS AND WILL PLAN TO DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF VILLAGERS WORKING ON THE PROJECT.

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DOI ANG KHANG - IN JANUARY 1975, THE USG EXECUTED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIS WATERSHED PLANTING PROGRAM BY RFD SIMILAR TO DOI SAM MUEN. THE REFORESTATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE RFD, CONFIDENT OF RESULTS, IS NOW EXPANDING THE PLANTING PROGRAM THROUGH USE OF RTG BUDGET FUNDS.

C. USDA PLANT SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM- FOUR NEW PROJECTS WERE NEGOTIATED DURING THE QUARTER. WE EXPECT THESE PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED IN FY 75.

(1) PYRETHUM

- (KASETSART UNIVERSITY) \$59,610

(2) OIL SEEDS - (KASETSART UNIVERSITY \$81,570)

(3) APICULTURE -(KASETSART UNIVERSITY \$108,160)

TO FIND NEW POLLINATORS FOR THE CROPS
INTRODUCED INTO NORTH THAILAND.

(4) MULTIPLE CROPPING - (CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY \$129,528)

TO INTRODUCE NEW CROPPING PATTERNS INTO NORTH THAILAND.

IN MARCH, A THIRD PAYMENT (\$10,000) WAS MADE TO KASETSART UNIVERSITY ON THE DECIDUOUS FRUIT PROJECT. ALSO IN MARCH A SECOND PAYMENT (5,000) WAS MADE TO KASETSART UNIVERSITY ON THE STRAWBERRY PROJECT.

5. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION

THE 31ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE(ICADD) WAS HELD IN BANGKOK, FEBRUARY 23-28. THE THAI MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN COOPERATION WITH THE ROYAL NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTIONS SPONSORED THE CONGRESS. DR. PRASOP RATANAKORN OF THE RTG MINISTRY OF HEALTH SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND

AS PRINCIPAL ORGANIZER.

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FOLLOWING THE ICADD, THE U.S. SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (SAODAP) AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRUG ABUSE (NIDA) SPONSORED A DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR MARCH 1-3 IN THE RESORT CITY OF PATTAYA. ABOUT 50 PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELDS OF DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND PREVENTION FROM THAILAND AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED. ON MARCH 4-5 SAODAP AND NIDA SPONSORED A TWO DAY TRAINING COURSE FOR NURSES, SOCIAL WORKERS AND OTHER PERSONNEL FROM DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN THAILAND. DR. PRASOP RATANAKOR, WHO DID MOST OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK FOR BOTH THE SEMINAR AND TRAINING COURSE, WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. FIVE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS SERVED AS RESOURCE PEOPLE AT THE SEMINAR AND TRAINING SESSION - LEE I. DOGOLOFF (NIDA), MARY LOU DOGOLOFF (SAODAP), DR. PETER BOURNE, DR. ROBERT NEWMAN, AND DR MARK GREENE.

6. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

IN FEBRUARY A THAI DELEGATION CONSISTING OF CHITR POSAYANON (UNPDAC IN BANGKOK), POLICE COLONEL CHAWALIT YOTMANI (CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD) AND SAKTHIP KRAIROEK (MINISTRY OF INTERIOR) ATTENDED THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS DRUGS (CND) IN GENEVA. COLONEL CHAWALIT TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT AT THE MEETING HE WOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE EXPEDITIOUS APPOINTMENT OF A UN REGIONAL NARCOTICS LIAISON OFFICER TO BANGKOK. UPON HIS RETURN, CHAWALIT TOLD THE BANGKOK POST THAT HE EXPECTED THE UN WOULD SOON ASSIGN A REPRESENTATIVE TO BANGKOK TO COORDINATE

REGIONALNARCOTICS EFFORTS.

7. ABUSE

KHLAI LA-ONGMANI, MINISTER OF HEALTH IN THE SHORT-LIVED SENO PRAMOT CABINET, TOLD THE BANGKOK POST ON FEBRUARY 24 THAT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH COULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE BY ITSELF. KHLAI CALLED FOR A COORDINATED EFFORT BY POLICE, PARENTS AND SCHOOLS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. HE ALSO URGED THAT THE POLICE TAKE

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ACTION TO CRACK DOWN ON THE MANUFACTURE AND
DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS. (COMMENT: KHLAI IS A
RESPECTED POLITICIAN WHO WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT UNDER
THE DEMOCRAT PARTY LABEL. ALTHOUGH HE IS NO LONGER
MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE FACT THAT HE CONSIDERED THE DRUG
ABUSE PROBLEM SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO ISSUE A PRESS
STATEMENT COULD BE AN INDICATION THAT SOME THAI
POLITICIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE
EXTENT OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN THAILAND.)

8. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

CONGRESSMEN LESTER WOLFF, MORGAN MURPHY AND J. HERBERT
BURKE VISITED BANGKOK AND CHIANG MAI JANUARY 7-12 TO
REVIEW THE THAI/U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT (BANGKOK 694).
THE CONGRESSMEN SAID THAT THEY HAD CONFIRMED THEIR
IMPRESSIONS THAT THAI AUTHORITIES WERE BOTH MORE
COOPERATIVE AND MORE EFFECTIVE IN THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS
PROGRAM THAN IN PAST YEARS. RTG NARCOTICS OFFICIALS
WERE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH WOLFF'S COMMENTS ON THEIR
EFFORTS.

THE 1975 EAST ASIA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN
BANGKOK, MARCH 24-26. AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE
HEADED THE WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE.
APPROXIMATELY 50 DELEGATES FROM WASHINGTON AND EA POSTS
ATTENDED.
MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, NARCOTICS, PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG ABUSE, REHABILITATION, NARCOTICS CONFERENCE, QUARTERLY REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO07559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0685
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaahuk.tel
Line Count: 744
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 14
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-3527, 75 MAY 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: QUARTERLY ROUNDUP OF THAI DEVELOPMENTS, JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 1975
TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006